Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission
Conseil de la radiodiffusion et des télécommunications canadiennes
Canada

News Release

July 28, 1995

CRTC SEEKS COMMENTS TO DEVELOP FAIR ACCESS RULES FOR BROADCASTING DISTRIBUTION

OTTAWA/HULL - The CRTC today called for public comment on the establishment of comprehensive access rules that would apply to all broadcasting distribution companies (Public Notice CRTC 1995-128). Today's public notice follows an Order in Council to the Commission dated March 14, 1995 and sets out specific issues on which the Commission seeks comments. It also explains how to participate in the public process, which will include a public hearing to start February 5, 1996 in the National Capital Region.

"Our objective in this proceeding is to develop fair and equitable access rules for all those involved in the distribution of television broadcasting services", CRTC Chairman Keith Spicer said. "Since we intend to develop rules that could apply to a wide range of distribution systems, including DTH satellite systems, exempt MATV services, and wireless radiocommunication services involving MDS and Cellularvision technologies, operators of existing distribution systems, as well as potential applicants for new licences, should participate in this process."

As there is already a separate proceeding under way, under the *Telecommunications Act*, to consider issues related to access to distribution undertakings by non-programming services, the Commission has determined that this second proceeding should address the development of appropriate access rules for authorized television programming services only.

The Commission invites comments on any matter related to the development of access rules. Without limiting the scope of the issues on which comments may be submitted, the Commission also invites interested parties to provide their views on such specific subjects as the proper implementation of access rules, dispute resolution mechanisms, applicability of access rules to digital transmission and grandfathering the distribution of existing exempt programming services.

In order to have the fullest possible public consultation, the Commission will hold a two-phase written comment process prior to the February 5, 1996 public hearing. The deadline for the submission of written comments during the first phase is September 22, 1995.

As part of the first phase, the Commission expects the Canadian Cable Television Association (CCTA) to submit, before November 1, 1995, a revised access policy for exempt programming services that should take into account the comments submitted by the September 22 deadline. Then, in the second phase of the process, the Commission will accept comments dealing with issues raised in the submissions received during the first phase or on the CCTA's revised access policy. The deadline for submitting these comments is December 1, 1995.

Anyone wishing to appear at the public hearing must first participate in the written process of this proceeding and submit their comments to the Secretary General, CRTC, Ottawa, K1A 0N2.

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Contact: CRTC Public Affairs, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0N2
Tel: (819) 997-0313, TDD: (819) 994-0423, Fax: (819) 994-0218

Copies of today's public notice are available through our Internet home page (http://www.crtc.gc.ca) or in the public examination room at any of the following CRTC offices:

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